

§ 6.4

include a statement of the reasons why action would be warranted under section 22 and shall be supported by appropriate information and data.

(b) *Section 8(a)*. A request for action under section 8(a) should be submitted in duplicate to the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. Such request shall include a statement of the reasons why the commodity is perishable, and why, due to such perishability, a condition exists requiring emergency treatment, and shall be supported by appropriate information and data. A request under section 8(a) submitted in connection with a proposed section 7 (Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1951) investigation shall not be acted upon until a section 7 application has been properly filed by the person making the request with the Tariff Commission, and a copy of such application and supporting information and data are furnished the Administrator.

§ 6.4 Investigations.

(a) *Section 22*. The Administrator shall cause an investigation to be made whenever, based upon a request submitted pursuant to § 6.3 or upon other information available to him, he determines that there is reasonable ground to believe that the imposition of import quotas or fees under section 22 may be warranted, or that the termination or modification of import quotas or fees in effect under section 22 may be warranted.

(b) *Section 8(a)*. The Administrator shall cause an immediate investigation to be made whenever (1) a request is received for emergency treatment in connection with an application properly filed with the Tariff Commission under section 7; (2) a request is received for emergency treatment under section 22 if the Administrator determines that there is reasonable ground to believe that the imposition of import quotas or fees under section 22 may be warranted; or (3) the Administrator, upon the basis of other information available to him, has reasonable ground for believing that emergency treatment under section 8(a) is necessary. The Administrator shall expedite to the full-

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est practicable extent his attention to requests for emergency treatment under section 8(a), and such requests shall receive priority over requests for other action under section 22. The investigation shall cover (1) whether the commodity is a perishable agricultural commodity; (2) whether, due to the perishability of the commodity, a condition exists requiring emergency treatment as indicated by such factors as (i) the marketing season for the commodity, (ii) past and prospective domestic production, stocks, requirements, and prices, (iii) past and prospective imports; and (3) such other matters as the Administrator determines are relevant to a determination as to whether emergency treatment for the commodity is necessary. No public hearing shall be held in connection with investigations under this paragraph.

§ 6.5 Hearings under section 22.

The Administrator is authorized to provide for such public hearings as he deems necessary to discharge the responsibility for action under section 22 vested in him by §§ 6.2 and 6.4(a). In view of the need, however, for prompt action on requests for action under section 22, public hearings shall be held in connection with investigations conducted under § 6.4(a) only when the Administrator determines that a public hearing is necessary to obtain supplementary information not otherwise available. Any public hearing which is held shall be conducted by representatives designated for the purpose by the Administrator; shall be preceded by such public notice as, in the opinion of the Administrator, will afford interested persons reasonable opportunity to attend and present information; and minutes of the proceedings at such hearing shall be obtained. Hearings shall be informal and technical rules of evidence shall not apply. Such hearings are for the purpose of obtaining information for the assistance of the Secretary. However, in discharging his responsibilities under section 22, the Secretary is not restricted to the information adduced at the hearings.